

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184339

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM ANDREWS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. TRAVEL OF GILBERT GUDE - FORMER REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVE (8TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND) AND PRESENT DIRECTOR, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, GUDE AND HIS WIFE WILL ATTEND THE 44TH COUNCIL MEETING (AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 2) OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS IN STRBSKE PLESO IN THE HIGH TATRAS FROM AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 2. HIS ACCOMMODATIONS ARE IN THE HOTEL FIS. HE WILL PRESENT A PAPER TO THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY SECTION OF THE CONGRESS.

2. GUDE MAY SPEND A DAY OR TWO IN PRAGUE BEFORE OR AFTER THE CONGRESS. WE WILL RECOMMEND TO HIM THAT HE CONTACT YOU IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE HIM. HE IS WELL-CONNECTED IN THE CONGRESS AND COULD POSSIBLY BE OF ASSISTANCE ON A NUM-
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BER OF ISSUES SUCH AS CLAIMS/GOLD.

3. GUDE HAS ASKED US TO PROVIDE HIM WITH INFORMATION ABOUT TRAVEL POSSIBILITIES. HE WANTS TO GO TO NORTHERN ITALY AFTER THE CONGRESS BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WOULD BE BEST, IN TERMS OF COMFORT AND SIGHTSEEING, TO FLY, DRIVE, OR TAKE A TRAIN. HE IS ALSO INTERESTED IN A BOAT TRIP ON

THE DANUBE.

4. PLEASE SEND US ASAP WHATEVER INFORMATION YOU MAY HAVE OR ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. CAN HE RENT A CAR IN PRAGUE OR IN BRATISLAVA? IF SO, HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST? COULD HE DRIVE THE CAR TO ITALY? COULD HE GO BY TRAIN FROM STRBSKE PLESO, THE CONGRESS' MEETING PLACE, TO PRAGUE OR BRATISLAVA? COULD HE TAKE A BOAT FROM BUDAPEST TO BRATISLAVA OR VIENNA? HOW MUCH WOULD IT COST AND HOW LONG WOULD THE TRIP TAKE? HOW COULD HE BEST GO FROM STRBSKE PLESO TO BUDAPEST? CAN YOU SEND US INFORMATION ON TRAIN SCHEDULES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA? IF HE GOES BY TRAIN, DOES HE NEED RESERVATIONS? PLEASE INCLUDE ANY OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION YOU HAVE ALONG THESE LINES.

5. CLAIMS/GOLD AND EXCHANGES AGREEMENT - DURING AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING JULY 13 ON US RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, LUERS, WHO WAS CHAIRING THE MEETING, RAISED THE QUESTION OF MAKING A NEW PROPOSAL TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT ON CLAIMS/GOLD. BOTH BOB KING, NSC, AND PHIL KAPLAN, S/P, EXPRESSED THE VIEW OF THEIR BOSSES THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD BE UNTIMELY. KING WAS EMPHATIC THAT WE SHOULD NOT DO ANYTHING BEFORE 1979. HE TOLD ME AFTER THE MEETING THAT HE HAD VERY RECENTLY RAISED THE QUESTION WITH HIS BOSS, WHO HAD STRONGLY OPPOSED TAKING CONFIDENTIAL

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ANY INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER IN 1978. KAPLAN'S VIEWS AS TO TIMEING WERE LESS PRECISE, BUT HE ALSO SUGGESTED WAITING UNTIL LATE IN THE FALL. THEIR VIEWS APPLIED EQUALLY TO THE SIGNING OF THE CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. IT WAS QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THERE WAS NO LIKLIHOOD OF A CHANGE IN THEIR POSITION IN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE, AND IT WAS LEFT THAT WE WOULD BEGIN TO THINK AGAIN ABOUT BOTH CLAIMS/GOLD AND THE SIGNING OF THE EXCHANGES AGREEMENT IN NOVEMBER. IN MY VIEW, THIS OUTCOME, WHILE DISAPPOINTING, NEED NOT INTERFERE WITH A CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND OURSELVES ON THE CONTENT OF A NEW CZECH CLAIMS/GOLD PROPOSAL. VANCE

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